

## **JONI M. BUTCHER**

Louisiana State University  
Department of Communication Studies  
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### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D.** Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge: August 2003  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies  
Major Emphasis: Performance Studies  
Minor Emphasis: Theatre  
Dissertation: "The Bardic Utterance in Situation Comedy Theme Songs, 1960s-1990s."
- M.A.** Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge: August 1994  
Master of Arts in Speech Communication  
Thesis: "The Aesthetic and Social Value of Spectacular Display in American Musical Theatre."
- B.A.** Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge: August 1990  
Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor:** 1999-Present

CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication

This course educates students on the three areas of communication studies which includes rhetoric, performance, and communication theory.

CMST 2060: Public Speaking

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speaking.

CMST 3107: Rhetoric of Contemporary Media

This course helps students examine our changing value systems as they are reflected in television shows from 1950 to present day. Students also become acquainted with the social, political, and economic environments surrounding these shows.

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I believe that teaching is more than just a career choice. For me, teaching is an extension of who I am. I love learning and I love sharing what I have learned with others. I am thrilled when my students continue this trend by sharing things they have learned in my class with their friends and family members. A student of mine once told me that he made his girlfriend take the communication survey he took in class so they could understand more about how they each viewed communication, and could, in turn, learn to communicate more effectively with each other.

I believe that teaching and learning are not restricted to the classroom. I want my students to learn through doing. Reading and listening to lectures is certainly one way to learn, but I believe learning is more effective when students can put the concepts into practice. Along with many in-class activities, I have each student keep a learning portfolio throughout the semester. The entries in this portfolio ask them to reflect on and write about how they have used the concepts of communication in their day-to-day lives. My wish is that, even after they leave my class, they will recognize how these concepts continue to play out in their personal and professional lives.

I believe that I can learn from my students as much as they can learn from me. There have been many instances in my classroom where I have walked out knowing more than I did when I walked in. During one of my lectures on the opening theme of the TV show, *Maude*, a student brought up the idea that it seemed, to him, the African-American singers were using a technique used by plantation slaves where they would sing coded messages that insulted the master of the plantation, but sounded praiseworthy on the surface. I researched this point when I left class and was able to add a whole new dimension to my lecture. I give him credit for bringing this to my attention each semester that I teach this class.

Finally, I believe that every student is an individual. It is a personal goal of mine to learn the name of each student in my class. I try to address them by name when answering their questions or when calling on them for a response. I want them to feel that they are an important part of the education process and not just a nameless face in the crowd. Teaching and learning are flip-sides of the same coin. I get a rush of excitement at the start of each semester because I know I will be meeting a new group of students with whom to share the educational experience.

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Basic Course Director:** 2008-Present

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies

My main duties include overseeing the scheduling of CMST 1061 classes, helping new CMST 1061 instructors put together their lectures and assignments,

observing the graduate students who teach CMST 1061 classes, and serving as the first line of defense for grade appeals from the CMST 1061 classes.

**Office of Independent Study, Grader: 2003-Present**

I am the grader for the CMST 2063 (Argument and Debate) Correspondence Course. In CMST 2063, students learn how to prepare both constructive and rebuttal speeches on topics of their choice.

**Residential College Instructor**

Business Residential College: Spring 2009

I taught two sections of CMST 1061 (Fundamentals of Communication) and held weekly office hours for students in the BRC.

Agriculture Residential College: Spring 2010-Spring 2013

I taught CMST 2060 (Public Speaking) and held weekly office hours for students in the ARC. I also presented a program on identifying your personal communication style and recognizing the effect it has on others within the workplace.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Crick, Nathan, Pecchioni, Loretta, & **Butcher, Joni**. *Deconstructing Communication: An Introduction to Rhetorical, Performance and Communication Theory*. Pearson Custom Publishing, 2007.

Butcher, Joni. *The 5 Pathways of Communication*. Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2014.

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies  
General Education Assessment Committee for CMST 1061  
Chair, (2009-Present)

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2008-Present)

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies  
Instructor Review Committee (2006-2007)

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2005-2006)

Louisiana State University, Department of Communication Studies  
Black Box Advisory Board, Ph.D. Student Representative  
(Fall 1997-Spring 1998)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

PS-22 Committee (2013). This committee worked to rewrite the absence and make-up policy for Louisiana State University.

University Teaching Colloquy (2013). I attended and participated in the university sponsored teaching colloquy on Team-Based Learning.

## **SELECTED PANELS AND PAPERS**

Performer: "Untitled: Performativity and the Gendered Body"  
Southern States Communication Association  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana (April 2005)

Panelist: "The Use of Power-Point in Public Speaking Classrooms"  
National Communication Association  
Atlanta, Georgia (November 2001)

Panelist: "Uniting and Directing with Confidence in Our Century"  
Southern States Communication Association  
New Orleans, Louisiana (April 2000)

Performer: "Forbidden (to Perform on) Broadway"  
Southern States Communication Association  
New Orleans, Louisiana (April 2000)

"Sordid and Grotesque: The Emerging Themes in Television at the Turn of the Millennium."  
Southern States Communication Association  
New Orleans, Louisiana (April 2000)

"Television Theme Songs and the Performance of Popular Culture."  
Poster Presentation at Intellectual Gumbo  
Louisiana State University (March 1999)

"Confessions of Two Nuns at Hooters: Exploring the Ramifications of Boal's Invisible Theatre."  
National Communication Association  
Chicago, Illinois (November 1997)

". . . " "The Evolution of Performance Art.:  
Southern States Communication Association  
Memphis, Tennessee (April 1996)

## DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Adaptor and Performer: *Tickets Please! Trav-a-logue with Babs and Kitty*, compiled from a wide variety of travel narratives. Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production.  
(February 2002)

Adaptor and Director: *Mutts: A Canine Musical*, compiled from a wide selection of short stories, poetry, reference material and anecdotes about dogs. Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production.  
(April 1998)

Adaptor and Director: *White Noise*, a performance of the novel by Don DeLillo. Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production.  
(April 1997)

Adaptor and Co-Director: *Beauty and the Beast: A Musical Fairytale*, adapted from twenty-three versions of the tale and blended with satires of popular songs from musical theatre. Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production.  
(October 1993)

Adaptor and Co-Director: *The Cherry Orchard: As You've Never Seen It Before; a comedy in four theories*, adapted from Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*, using the theories of Stanislavski, Brecht, Grotowski, and Boal. Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production.  
(April 1993)

Director: Gallery Three, 20<sup>th</sup> Century European: A Gallery of Poems on Paintings in Performance, Giles Wilkerson Gray Lecture Series. Louisiana State University.  
(February 1992)

Director: *Marat/Sade*, two scenes directed for a theatre workshop production. Louisiana State University.  
(December 1991)

## TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Designer: *Jelly's Last Jam*. In charge of designing and overseeing construction of the set. BREC Independence Park Theater.  
(September 2002)

Light Board Operator: *Go Down, Moses*. Louisiana State University. Black Box Production.  
(March 1999)

Co-Designer: *West Side Story*. In charge of designing, overseeing construction and painting of the set. Baton Rouge Magnet High School.  
(January 1997)

## FEATURED PERFORMANCES

Performer: *Under Milk Wood*, directed by Dr. Michael Bowman.  
Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production  
(Spring 1994)

Performer: *Hawthorne's Marketplace*, directed by Dr. Ruth Laurion Bowman.  
Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production  
(Spring 1992)

Performer: *Theatre of the Obsessed*, directed by Dr. Karen Mitchell.  
Louisiana State University, Performance Studies Production  
(Spring 1991)

Performer: *Sugar Mother*, adapted and directed by Dr. Mary Frances HopKins and Dr. Nathan Stucky.  
Louisiana State University, Conference on Narrative and Performance.  
(February 1989)

Performer: *A Jury of Her Peers*, adapted and directed by Matthew Beemer.  
Louisiana State University, student workshop production.  
(Fall 1988)